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Can Trump Be Stumped?

The rhetoric being spouted by the current Republican presidential hopefuls, especially Donald Trump, can no longer be considered acceptable by the American people. Never before have I heard a politician produce such blatant falsehood as fact. In an interview with CBN News, Trump flat out says, “Yes there’s a Muslim problem... I didn’t see Swedish people knock down the World Trade Center.” What Trump has embodied is a lack of willingness to parse apart a religion and an extremist group. He almost exclusively used absolutist language that lumps all Muslims together as violent, hateful and repressed. Just a few minutes skimming through the Qur’an, speaking to a Muslim or attending a prayer service would showcase a much different story. Rather than use actual political policies, Trump uses scare tactics to paint a picture of the American way of life being overrun by evil Arabs.

In a comedy sketch by Maz Jobrani, he notes how the fact that his passport says born in Pakistan can actually cause him to be stopped and questioned by border patrol agents. This isn’t security, this is racism and it’s this kind of racism disguised as security that Trump sells to a very willing audience. In a way the Middle East has become seen as a sort of Soviet Union figure. The reason being, many people fear the Middle East, Arabs and Islam because they don’t understand the culture or religion. They are more content to be spoon fed Islamophobic one liners in lieu of factual knowledge.

Another huge issue with the rhetoric Donald Trump promotes is his nationalism is perceived as patriotism. To be clear, as many people misuse the word, nationalism is the belief that one nation’s people and country is better and more important than any other country. This might not seem so terrible but this has been taken to a level where the lives of Arabs and Muslims no longer matter. He has even said we need “Total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States.” The lives of fleeing Syrian refugees, according to his logic, do not matter simply because they are from the Middle East and many are Muslim. He even goes as far as to recommend he have a religious screening and tracking program to follow all of the Muslims moving in, out and within the country. These proposals aren’t protecting Americans, they aren’t saving lives or reducing potential terrorist attacks. They are destroying the basic human rights of American citizens. Unlike what Trump likes to allude to, not all Muslims are Arabs. In fact many American Muslims are just as white as he is. A little research into the history of Iran would show that ethnically speaking, Persians are Aryan not Arab which, last I checked, would make them white!

A final thought on Donald Trump and his lust for Islamophobia. Speaking one’s mind does not make what they are saying true, accurate or honest. What happened to the old verbiage ‘If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all’? Simply because he says that we have a problem with political correctness and then follows that saying we need to track and monitor all Muslims does not make it a good idea or even Constitutional. Again, being universally offensive to Hispanics, Arabs, Muslims, women, the disabled, African-Americans, Asians, and Prisoners of War does not make him revolutionary or clever or a good idea to be President of the United States. Yes many people are angry because of 9/11 or expensive gas or perceived ideas that Islam is taking over our country, but this is not the reason to vote for someone. Don’t vote for someone who is actively provoking and encouraging anger as Trump does. To be quick to anger is to be slow to resolution.

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